



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

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## Community Update: Week Ending 4/30/10

JAMES S. ALESI April 30, 2010

classrooms, in the laboratories, in the gymnasiums, or in our communities.

In my experience, teachers are always seeking new ways to recognize their students' achievements, often times down-playing their important role in driving their students to excel. Occasionally great teachers are recognized, like Mr. Richard Ognibene of Fairport High School, the 2008 New York State Teacher of the Year, but all too often the countless hours of instruction or unwritten words of encouragement are overlooked collectively by students, parents, administrators and communities. This week, please take a moment to thank our teachers. Let us all take a moment to polish our apples!

### WEST POINT CADETS RECOGNIZED AT STATE CAPITOL

Wednesday, April 28th, was West Point Day in Albany, an annual tribute to the men and women that attend the United States Military

In Albany earlier this month, I had the tremendous privilege of welcoming a delegation from Ukraine that is participating in the Open World Program, an international exchange program between the United States and several nations in Eurasia. In over ten years, the Open World Program has enabled thousands of leaders in Europe and Asia to experience American democracy, civil society and community life, to gain new ideas and inspiration for implementing positive change back home.

Besides high-intensity workshops and seminars, and hands-on activities such as job shadowing and site visits, the delegates are encouraged to meet elected officials - of all levels of government - to discuss their roles and responsibilities in representing their fellow citizens. I enjoyed the opportunity to meet the delegates personally, to hear their stories, and I was delighted that a visit to Albany was incorporated into their experience here in the United States. Moreover, I would like to thank